

ARTICLE APPEARED

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CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
19 April, 1985

# Time now for Spook Hotline

WASHINGTON—And now, to help President Reagan in his urgent drive for \$14 million in vital U.S. aid for contra guerrilla groups, here's National Security Information Hotline:

Q: The Nicaraguan Reds claim they killed an American mercenary soldier with blond hair identified by his dogtags as Roger E. Patterson of Alabama. A black ex-serviceman with the same name and the same dogtags has turned up alive and well in Alabama. What's the hell's going on?

A: Uh, we have no information on that at this time.

Q: Well, if the guy's a plant, how many blond Nicaraguans are there?

A: I'm sorry, but that information's classified.

Q: President Reagan wants to spend a measly \$14 million on the contras, hardly enough to buy one of those helicopters they're using down there, to fight dirty Reds in our own hemisphere. There are reports we're sending the Afghan rebels at least \$160 million a year, but all they're getting is old rifles and machine guns when they're begging for anti-aircraft guns. Is it true most of that money goes to corrupt Pakistanis? Who's covering up?

A: Let me get back to you on that one. Will you be around next year?

Q: The father of one of the American helicopter pilots killed in Grenada said his son belonged to a "black job" special operations "night stalker" unit out of Fort

## Michael Kilian

Campbell that flew in uniforms without name, rank or insignia. Though the pilot was in the Army, the Defense Department sent the family a headstone identifying him as a Marine. Can you explain this?

A: Gee, I'm afraid we have no comment on that.

Q: That dead blond mercenary in Nicaragua was fighting with a contra unit called the "Jeane Kirkpatrick Task Force." What's its guerrilla war mission, to sneak up on the enemy and screech at them?

A: Sorry. Couldn't quite make out what you said.

Q: The CIA and others have been using Hughes 500 "black job" helicopters for special missions in Central America. The wreckage of three of them turned up in Grenada, yet the Pentagon didn't include any Hughes 500s on the list of aircraft used in the invasion. How come?

A: My, it's almost time for lunch.

Q: Didn't the Nicaraguans shoot down one of those Hughes 500 "black job" choppers last September and find the bodies of two members of the Alabama National Guard in civilian clothes?

A: The score was Cubs, 7; San Francisco, 3.

Q: Can you explain "Operation Elephant Herd," in which "black job" helicopters and light airplanes assigned to special opera-

tions units at Fort Bragg, N.C., reportedly get laundered through Andrews Air Force Base and other fields and are sighted in places like Puerto Rico?

A: Cloudy skies, clearing in the afternoon, with temperatures in the 60s.

Q: Is it true that batches of pilots and crews of such aircraft have been reported killed in mysterious "training accidents?"

A: I'll check our files, as soon as they're out of the shredder.

Q: That black ex-servicemen in Alabama whose dogtags turned up on a dead mercenary; didn't he drive trucks in Honduras while in the Army, and wasn't he mustered out at Fort Rucker, Ala., where they train U.S. Army helicopter pilots?

A: Who?

Q: Our military now has 9,882 men serving in special operations units, with a back-up force of 13,000. Their annual budget runs to \$400 million. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger says that in the last decade 500 teams of them have taken part in "training missions" in 60 countries. CIA Director William Casey made Sen. Barry Goldwater furious for mining Nicaraguan harbors without telling anyone. Is there anything else going on we don't know about?

A: I wouldn't know anything about that.

Q: Just where is Alabama?

A: Thank you for calling. Your phone number has been traced. This is now a recording.